

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 2010 GRECIAN FESTIVAL IN WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

**HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 28, 2010*

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the St. Spyridon Grecian Festival, to be held June 4th, 5th and 6th in Worcester, Massachusetts. The Festival has been held biennially in Worcester since 1976, and has served as a wonderful exhibition of Greek culture, customs, faith and food.

The St. Spyridon Grecian Festival was founded by Father George Stephanides. Upon his arrival in Worcester in 1974, his idea for a large Greek festival was met with skepticism. To prove that such an event would be viable, Father George organized a small food fair in 1975. With its success, the stage was set for the first ethnic festival of its kind in New England. With over twenty thousand visitors in the festival's first year, there was no doubt that the Grecian Festival would become a mainstay in the community for years to come. To this day, the Festival remains one of the largest in New England, with over 25,000 attendees.

For three days in early June, the St. Spyridon Grecian Festival will once again open its doors to the community to enjoy the best of Grecian cuisine and hospitality. From the abundance of Greek food and homemade pastry, to the art exhibits, dance performances, music and cultural displays, the Grecian Festival provides the entire community, both young and old, an opportunity to experience and interact with Greek culture on all levels.

Madam Speaker, I invite the United States House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the St. Spyridon Grecian Festival for the important role it has played over the past thirty-four years in sharing the wonders of Greek culture with our community.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2011

SPEECH OF

**HON. IKE SKELTON**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 27, 2010*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5136) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2011 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes:

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Chair, I would like to submit the following exchange of letters:

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

AND LABOR,

*Washington, DC, May 21, 2010.*

Re Corrected Bill Number.

Hon. IKE SKELTON,

*Chairman, Committee on Armed Services, House of Representatives, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.*

DEAR CHAIRMAN SKELTON: I am writing to you concerning the jurisdictional interest of the Committee on Education and Labor in

matters being considered in H.R. 5136, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011.

Our committee recognizes the importance of H.R. 5136 and the need for the legislation to move expeditiously. Therefore, while we have a valid claim to jurisdiction over the bill, I do not intend to request a sequential referral. This, of course, is conditional on our mutual understanding that nothing in this legislation or my decision to forego a sequential referral waives, reduces or otherwise affects the jurisdiction of the Committee on Education and Labor, and that a copy of this letter and your response acknowledging our jurisdictional interest will be included in the Committee Report and as part of the Congressional Record during consideration of this bill by the House.

The Committee on Education and Labor also asks that you support our request to be conferees on the provisions over which we have jurisdiction during any House-Senate conference.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

GEORGE MILLER,

*Chairman.*

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES,

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

*Washington, DC, May 21, 2010.*

Hon. GEORGE MILLER,

*Chairman, Committee on Education and Labor, House of Representatives, Rayburn Office Building, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 5136, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011. I agree that the Committee on Education and Labor has valid jurisdictional claims to certain provisions in this important legislation, and I am most appreciative of your decision not to schedule a mark-up of this bill in the interest of expediting consideration. I agree that by agreeing to waive consideration of certain provisions of the bill, the Committee on Education and Labor is not waiving its jurisdiction over these matters. Should this bill or similar legislation be the subject of a House-Senate conference, I will support the appointment of conferees from the Committee on Education and Labor.

This exchange of letters will be included in the committee report on the bill.

Very truly yours,

IKE SKELTON,

*Chairman.*

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

*Washington, DC, May 21, 2010.*

Hon. IKE SKELTON,

*Chairman, Committee on Armed Services, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.*

DEAR CHAIRMAN SKELTON: I am writing regarding H.R. 5136, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011. As you know, the Committee on Energy and Commerce has jurisdictional interest in a number of provisions of this bill.

In light of the interest in moving this bill forward promptly, I do not intend to exercise the jurisdiction of the Committee on Energy and Commerce by seeking sequential referral of H.R. 5136. I do this, however, only with the understanding that forgoing consideration of H.R. 5136 at this time will not be construed as prejudicing this Committee's jurisdictional interests and prerogatives on the subject matter contained in this or similar legislation. In addition, we reserve the right to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference named to consider such provisions.

I would appreciate your including this letter in the Congressional Record during consideration of the bill on the House floor. Thank you for your cooperation on this matter.

Sincerely,

HENRY A. WAXMAN,

*Chairman.*

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES,

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

*Washington, DC, May 21, 2010.*

Hon. HENRY A. WAXMAN,

*Chairman, Committee on Energy and Commerce, House of Representatives, Rayburn Office Building, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 5136, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011. I agree that the Committee on Energy and Commerce has valid jurisdictional claims to certain provisions in this important legislation, and I am most appreciative of your decision not to schedule a mark-up of this bill in the interest of expediting consideration. I agree that by agreeing to waive consideration of certain provisions of the bill, the Committee on Energy and Commerce is not waiving its jurisdiction over these matters. Should this bill or similar legislation be the subject of a House-Senate conference, I will support the appointment of conferees from the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

This exchange of letters will be included in the committee report on the bill.

Very truly yours,

IKE SKELTON,

*Chairman.*

COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES,

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

*Washington, DC, May 21, 2010.*

Hon. IKE SKELTON,

*Chairman, Committee on Armed Services, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.*

DEAR CHAIRMAN SKELTON: I write to confirm our mutual understanding regarding H.R. 5136, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011. While this legislation as reported contains subject matter within the jurisdiction of Committee on Financial Services, the committee waives consideration of the bill in order to expedite floor consideration of this important legislation.

The Committee on Financial Services takes this action only with the understanding that the committee's jurisdictional interests over this and similar legislation are in no way diminished or altered.

The Committee also reserves the right to seek appointment to any House-Senate conference on this legislation and requests your support if such a request is made. Finally, I would appreciate your including this letter in the committee report or in the Congressional Record during consideration of H.R. 5136 on the House Floor. Thank you for your attention to these matters.

BARNEY FRANK,

*Chairman.*

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES,

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

*Washington, DC, May 21, 2010.*

Hon. BARNEY FRANK,

*Chairman, Committee on Financial Services, House of Representatives, Rayburn Office Building, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 5136, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011. I agree that the Committee on Financial Services has valid jurisdictional claims to certain provisions in this important legislation, and I am most appreciative of your decision not to schedule a mark-up of this bill